1. A method of managing a virtual private network, the method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface for displaying one or more virtual private network subscribers and one or more computers offering virtual private network functions, the graphical user interface being programmed to display tunnels associated with either the subscribers and/or the computers offering virtual private network functions based on user input.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the computers offering virtual private network functions comprise extranet switches.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual private network functions comprise tunneling.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual private network functions comprise authentication.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying subscribers and computers comprises displaying a hierarchical tree that includes the subscribers and the computers.

6. A graphical user interface for use in managing a virtual private network, the graphical user interface comprising:

a display of virtual private network elements, the different elements being selectable by a user;

a collection of palettes that provide virtual private network sub-elements associated with the virtual private network elements, the palette displayed being controlled by user selection of an element; and

a collection of properties dialogs that receive user input configuring the virtual private network elements and/or sub-elements, the properties dialog displayed being controlled by user selection of an element from the display of virtual private network elements.

7. The graphical user interface of claim 6, wherein the display of virtual private network elements comprises a hierarchical tree the displays both virtual private network elements and associated virtual private network sub-elements.

8. The graphical user interface of claim 6, wherein the virtual private network elements comprise subscribers.

9. The graphical user interface of claim 6, wherein the virtual private network elements comprise computers offering virtual private network functions.

10. The graphical user interface of claim 9, wherein the computers comprise extranet switches.

11. The graphical user interface of claim 9, wherein the sub-elements comprise SNMP properties.

12. The graphical user interface of claim 9, wherein the sub-elements comprise an authentication technique.

13. The graphical user interface of claim 6, wherein the sub-elements comprise tunnels.

14. The graphical user interface of claim 6, further comprising modifying a virtual private network element listed in the hierarchical tree by dragging and dropping a virtual private network element from a displayed palette.

15. A graphical user interface for use in managing a virtual private network, the graphical user interface comprising:

a hierarchical tree that includes different extranet switches, the different extranet switches being selectable by a user;

a collection of palettes that provide groupings of extranet switch attributes, the palette displayed being controlled by user selection of an extranet switch; and

a collection of properties dialogs that collect information associated with the extranet switch attributes, the properties dialog displayed being controlled by user selection of an element.